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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,294	11/12/2001	James E. Ostrander	(ITT-482-A)-AC068 & AC069	5096

7590 06/16/2003

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EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,294

Applicant(s)

OSTRANDER ET AL.

Examiner

David E. Bochna

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/17/03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 11, 12, 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rose et al.

In regard to claim 1, Rose et al. discloses a fluid quick connector comprising:

A connector housing 1 configured to receive an endform 3;

A retainer 9 mounted in the connector housing to releasably latch the endform in the connector housing; and

An electrical contact 5, 6, (collar holding 6 in the bore) mounted separately from the retainer 9 in the connector housing between the housing 1 and the endform 3 for establishing electrical contact between an outer surface of the endform 3 and the connector housing 1.

In regard to claim 11, the connector housing 1 and the endform 3 being electrically conductive (via coating 5).

In regard to claim 12, Rose et al. discloses a connector housing 1 configured to receive an endform 3;

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A retainer 9 mounted in the connector housing to releasably latch the endform 3 in the connector housing 1;

A spacer (cylinder between 2 and 6 holding 6 in place), the spacer mounted in a through bore of the connector housing between the male endform 3 and the connector housing 1; and

An electrical contact member 5 carried on the spacer (cylinder holding 6 in place)(see column 2, lines 42-51) for establishing electrical contact between the endform and the connector housing.

In regard to claim 19, Rose et al. discloses a connector housing 1 configured to receive an endform 3 along a first axis;

The connector housing 1 and the endform 3 being electrically conductive;

A retainer 9 mounted in the connector housing to releasably latch the endform 3 in the connector housing;

A spacer 6 and a top hat (cylinder holding 6 in the 1) disposed in a through bore in the connector housing about the endform and separate from the retainer; and

An electrical contact member (6 is made of a conductive material) carried on one of the spacer and the top hat for establishing electrical contact between the endform and the connector housing.

In regard to claim 23, Rose et al. discloses an electrical contact for a fluid quick connector having a connector housing 1 configured to receive an endform 3 latched in the housing 1 by a retainer 9, the electrical contact comprising:

An electrically conductive body 6 adapted to be disposed in a bore of a connector housing axially separate from the retainer 9 about an endform inserted into the housing to establish electrical contact between the endform and the connector housing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-10, 13-18, 20-22, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rose et al. in view of Kot et al. Rose et al. discloses a fluid quick connect as described above. Rose et al. also discloses coating all of the connection components (see column 2, lines 43-44), including the O-ring, with a conductive material in order to assure that a good electrical connection is made between the mating components. However, Rose et al. does not disclose placing a plurality of radially inward extending projections on the spacer 6 or the top hat (cylinder holding 6 in the bore). Kot et al. teaches placing four circumferentially spaced inward projections 51 on a spacer 21 which contact an endform under tension (see column 3, lines 45-49) in order to increase the electrical contact between the mating components 24, 13. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify the electrically contacting spacer 6 or top hat (cylinder holding 6 in the bore) of Rose et al., to include inwardly facing radial projections, as taught by Kot et al. in order to improve on the electrical conductivity that Rose et al. wished to achieve.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (703) 306-9040. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.


David Bochna
June 13, 2003